

Tena Koutou Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

On behalf of the Merivale School Board, I would like to thank you for your support during Cyclone Gabrielle. With the devastating impact it had across our region we were very fortunate that we had no damage to our kura apart from a small and insignificant amount of debris in the school grounds. This primarily came down to preparations made on our behalf by our School Caretaker, Matua Richard over the weekend so we thank him very much for his mahi as well.

**Passion Learning.** One focus of our localised curriculum is our Passion Learning programme. Over several years we have conducted passion learning into hour blocks. While this will continue again in 2023 for our juniors (Y1 to Y3), we will trial a day of passion learning for our seniors (Y4 to Y6) each week. A detailed notice regarding this was sent home last week to inform whanau what passion day will look like. If you did not receive this notice, please contact the office. If you wish to discuss any issues or concerns, I strongly encourage you to please contact me directly. Due to low numbers at the start of this week, for obvious reasons, passion learning for everybody begins next **Monday 20 February**.

**Uniforms.** These are compulsory for all students and can be purchased at the office. Hats are also compulsory in Term 1 and 4 for shadeless work or play. For an invoice, please ask Whaea Jan or Whaea Karen in the office. If you have any concerns regarding uniforms, please contact me directly.

**School Stationery Packs.** All stationery is to be purchased through the office. The stationery packs, depending on classrooms, are between \$20 and \$30 which are significantly cheaper than other options. Again, should you require an invoice, please contact Whaea Jan or whaea Karen. If you have any concerns, please contact me directly.

Have a great week everyone.  
Mauriora. Matua Tom

## Health & Well Being :

A reminder that we have the school based **Throat-Swabbing - Rheumatic Fever** programme and also the **Kiri Ora Skin Health** programme operating in our school.

The Strep A bacteria can lead to Rheumatic Fever and may be found in sore throats and skin infections. If left untreated it can lead to Rheumatic Heart Disease.

**Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease are highly preventable.**

The Strep Throat programme will consist of a simple swab being taken of your child's throat.

The Kiri Ora programme will consist of an assessment of sore/s.

This service will be offered to all students at the school. If you wish to **opt your child out** of this programme, can you please complete an opt-off form at the school office.

- School sores - we have had a few cases of school sores since we returned from the holidays. If your child is infected with sores they must come to school with them covered and please make sure you are getting treatment for them. The above programme can help with this.
- Headlice – we have also noticed an increase in cases of headlice since the holidays. It would be great if everyone could check their childrens hair and treat where necessary please. Reminder that we have free product here at school.



**Last week the Whanau Aroha Centre farewelled their long time Centre Manager Saskia Dean. The school would like to wish Saskia all the best in her new venture. Saskia has been part of our school community for a long time and will be missed.**

Poipoia, penapena haere, ka puāwai”

*“Nurture, attend to, bloom”  
If the child is nurtured and understood, if their needs are attended to (through informed practice) then the child will bloom.*

We know the last few years have been tough with Covid, school disruptions, cost of living crisis and natural disasters on top of our everyday challenges. As adults it affects us but sometimes we forget the effects on the tamariki. At Te Kura o Tutarawananga we are interested in finding out more about our tamariki because we recognise that kids who are anxious and worried struggle to learn. Along with our learning programme our whole school, teachers and teacher assistants will be involved in professional development opportunities to support the wellbeing of each each child. We don't want to assume that we know what they are dealing with so we are going to ask each child from Year 2 - 6 3 questions about their feelings, support they might need and what they might do when they need help. Any questions regarding this please pop in and have a chat.  
Whaea Heather

## Healthy Lifestyle Info Session

Do you want your tamariki and whanau to be active and healthy in 2023? Come along to a info session at Rangiora health hub in Fraser Cove next to Postie shop every **Wednesday in February**

**from 11-1pm.**

Enquiries to  
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margo.temete@ranginui.co.nz

